

COLLECTION OF INSECT & DISEASE SPECIMEN FOR IDENTIFICATION

Although most foresters have some knowledge of forest pests, it is often helpful to get a laboratory check before making a diagnosis. When specimens are sent to the laboratory, we must make a diagnosis without ever seeing the affected tree. Thus, it is important to have a good specimen and a complete collection form for prompt diagnosis.

Before sampling from the symptomatic tree, take a close look at it and its environment. Many times the area showing symptoms is not the diseased area (i.e., a root disease might show up wilting foliage). Note any fruiting bodies, soil disturbance, or other conditions associated with the damage.

Samples should be as fresh as possible. Dead material or bark is useless since it contains secondary organisms. When collecting dieback or canker materials, the sample should straddle the living and dead zone, since this is where the disease organism is active. Fruiting bodies should be collected and shipped whole.

Proper moisture is essential in shipping live pathogens. Leaf, stem, and other above ground tissue should be placed in a plastic bag with a moist (not dripping) paper towel. Roots should also be shipped in a plastic bag with some of the surrounding dirt included.

Insect specimens should be shipped in 95% Ethyl Alcohol or Isopropyl Alcohol. If possible, include several insects together with a sample of their damage.

All specimens should be packaged in such a way as to insure their arrival in good condition. Place the sample (in its vial or bag) in a box or mailing tube and cushion it with filler material. (Be sure to include a sample form.) Delicate specimens should be double boxed. Write "HAND CANCEL" on the outside of the shipping container. Mail early in the week so the sample will not spend the weekend in the Post Office. Refrigerate all disease specimens until the time of shipment.

When we receive your specimen, we will identify the insect or disease as soon as possible. Once we have made an identification we will return a copy of the collection form to you with the bottom section completed.

REQUEST FOR INSECT OR DISEASE IDENTIFICATION

1. Owner's Name (if known): _____ 2. Collector's Name: _____
3. Collection point (county or city): _____
4. Collection Site (forest, yard, nursery, x-mas, etc.): _____
5. Collection date: _____ 6. Host(s): _____
7. Part(s) of host affected (stem, foliage, roots, entire, etc.): _____
8. Size of host: DBH _____ Height _____ Age _____ Number trees affected: _____
9. Environmental factors (flooded site, filled, etc.): _____
10. Condition of surrounding trees: _____ 11. Soil type: _____
12. Recent cultural practices (thinned, sprayed, fertilized, etc.): _____
- _____
13. Additional Information: _____
14. Collector's tentative diagnosis: _____
15. Person and address to receive results: _____
- _____

LABORATORY REPORT

(lab use only)

Specimen #: _____ Date received: _____

Specimen identification: _____

Control recommendations: _____

Comments: _____

Identified by: _____ Date: _____

See back for instructions